

Service Frequently Asked Questions:

1. There are so many confusing categories...what counts for what?

Quarterly - <i>Students directly meet Christ in the poor through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.</i>	Flex - <i>Students meet Christ through service in their parish, school, or wider community. All extra quarterly hours also count as flex.</i>	No, this doesn't count for flex hours- <i>These are still great things to do...they just don't count for school.</i>
Organizing donations <i>at</i> a food bank/soup kitchen	Helping to organize donations/make sandwiches at your parish/school.	Baking casseroles at home for the poor.
Serving as a catechist or peer minister at your parish	Hours spent serving the church in other ways (unpaid music ministry, decorating the church, altar-serving, lectoring, EMHC, etc.)	Attending as a participant in youth group, retreats, pilgrimages, or conferences
Organizing an event to advocate for and be present to those who are suffering (ex., being in charge of a Pink Out game)	Volunteering to help with an event that advocates to those who are suffering (ex., helping with a Pink Out game, running in a race for a cause)	IronGirl and similar athletic events
Helping at a camp/sporting/artistic event for disabled or underprivileged children.	Helping at an MDSA sports camp or something similar.	Participating in a sports camps, etc.
Tutoring underprivileged or disabled children.	Tutoring at your grade school, MDSA, etc.	Doing your homework. ;)
Child care for an organization serving the disabled or underprivileged.	Baby-sitting at your parish for free.	Baby-sitting for free in your neighborhood, etc.
Operation Welcome Home	Fundraising for a cause (i.e. Sailors for Soldiers 5K)	Fundraising for your school club, class, etc.
Habitat for Humanity or something similar	Shoveling snow/yard work organized by your parish to help those in need.	Shoveling snow/yard work for neighbors.
Using animals to help serve people (i.e. Maryland Therapeutic Riding Center or bringing pets to nursing homes, etc.)	No related flex hours—see explanation below.	Walking your neighbor's dog for free, etc.

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2. How does the school service requirement fit into the chart above?

School service is exclusively done at the events listed on the flex form which are also listed below. Any service done beyond the required four hours at these or other school events counts for flex (see above chart for details about what kinds of school activities count for flex). *A few school service options: **Back to School Night, Homecoming (not with clubs), Open House, High School Fairs, Christmas Bazaar, Spaghetti Dinner, HSPT testing, 8th grade interviews, Phone-athon, Freshmen Welcome Night, Easter Egg Hunt.***

3. What if I serve for more than 3 hours per quarter at an organization/activity on the quarterly service list? Do those hours not count?

Those hours *do* count. Put them on your Flex Hours form and they'll count toward your total flex hours at the end of the year.

4. What if I lose my form or forget to bring it when I do my service?

The forms will be available on Edline under Campus Ministry and also on the website:

<https://www.mountdesalesacademy.org/faith/service>. If you forget to bring it to your service, you will need to figure out a way to get those signatures on your form. Some ideas include scanning your form and emailing it to the agency and they fax or scan and email it back to you. If you do this, please let your teacher know ahead of time. It is important that all of the information is on that one form so that teachers have the ability to truly verify the hours served. It is *not permissible* to copy someone else's signed form and turn it in, even if you did the service.

5. Why doesn't service to animals count?

As Catholics, we have a responsibility to be good stewards of God's creation, which includes animals and the environment. However, because of the unique dignity of the human person among all of God's creation, Christian service will always find a focal point in service to the human person. Consequently, as Mount de Sales seeks to form students in Christian service, the required service hours will be exclusively service to the human person.

6. What if I do a major service trip? Does that count for all of my hours?

If completed during one quarter, three of those hours may count for quarterly hours, and the rest for flex hours. If completed over the summer, all of those hours would count for flex hours, but not for quarterly hours. Although summer service is wonderful, we would like students to form the habit of service as a regular part of their lives, not just in larger spurts over the summer.